

Introduction

In this package, you will find four additional fisheries resource monitoring projects to address federal subsistence fisheries management information needs during the 2000 field season. These projects are concentrated in Southeast Alaska, where the Forest Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and tribal and local organizations have worked together to identify priorities, to develop scientifically sound projects, and to establish effective partnerships for implementation. An important project monitoring sockeye salmon populations in Lake Clark is also included.

For each project, a one-page description outlines the issues, study objectives, consultations, and budgets. A spreadsheet then summarizes the budgets by region, showing a total budget for this third round of projects of \$1,531,000. In this set, stock status data account for the majority of the work, with subsistence harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge representing about one third of the budget. As in the previous rounds, the majority of funding is directed to rural organizations and local hires (33%) and ADF&G (56%), with a smaller portion (11%) directed to the federal field stations.

How to provide your comments

Please phone or fax your review comments on these projects by May 5, 2000. A Project Comment Sheet is included. These comments will be compiled and presented to the Board when it meets on May 9, 2000 to consider this set of proposed projects. Comments may be submitted to:

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Summary of the 2000 Unified Resource Monitoring Program

With this third round of projects, the Federal Subsistence Board will conclude selection of projects for the 2000 field season. With approval of the current package, the overall program of resource monitoring this year will include 45 projects, with budgets totaling \$5,578,900.

Drawn from a total of over 160 project proposals, these projects were selected to provide information to help resolve management issues facing the Federal Subsistence Board,

using sound scientific and statistical analysis methods, and working together in effective partnerships with ADF&G, Alaska Native and other organizations.

The **AAll Projects Budget Spreadsheet**@ provides an overview of the projects in each region, along with the distribution of funds among the six regions. Stock status projects are funded or proposed for each region, representing about 77% of the total budget. Harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects are also widely distributed among the regions and represent the remaining 23% of the budget. Taking the 45 projects together, rural organizations and local hires represent 38% of the total budget, ADF&G projects account for 40%, while federal field stations will be responsible for 22%. The Department of Interior has committed \$3.5 million to this effort, while the USDA-Forest Service has allocated \$2.1 million.

With these projects, the unified resource monitoring program has taken a significant step towards the Board=s goal of investing in new fisheries resource information to support more effective fisheries management - both to protect the resources and to ensure the subsistence priority. The five Federal agencies have worked together, and with ADF&G, the Regional Councils, Alaska Native tribes, and other organizations to develop the resource monitoring program. Mr. Willie Goodwin of the Northwest Arctic Regional Council and Mr. Dan O'Hara of the Bristol Bay Regional Council, have participated as representatives of the Regional Councils in all Board deliberations concerning the subsistence fisheries program.

In addition, this first year program upholds the commitment of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to build on the existing expertise in ADF&G, Alaska Native organizations, and other groups, through Section 809 Cooperative Agreements providing funding for resource monitoring projects. As the Secretaries had intended, a substantial majority of the funding in resource monitoring projects, fully 78%, goes to ADF&G, Alaska Native and other organization, and local hires.